

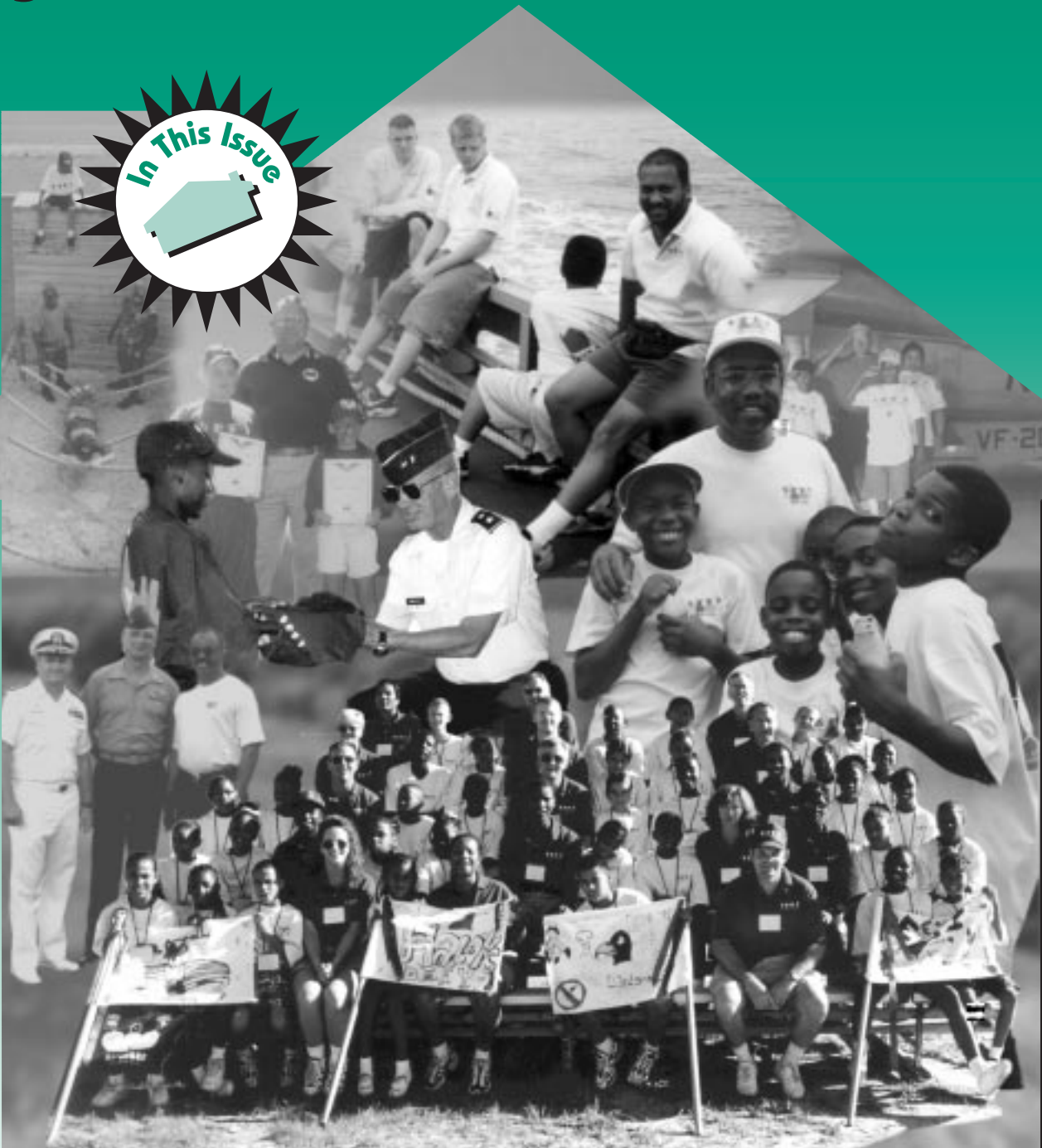


WEED & SEED IN-SITES

Volume VI, Number 6

October/November 1998

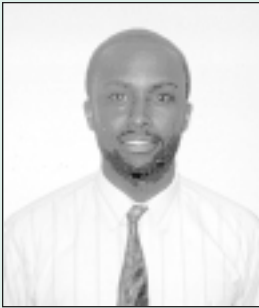
Drug Education for Youth – SPECIAL FEATURE



In This Issue



From the Editor:



I wish I could go back nearly 20 years and be a student in the Drug Education for Youth (DEFY) program. You may ask why, given the dangers and pitfalls of illegal drugs. It looks like lots of fun!

During the past couple of months, I have visited several DEFY summer camps across the

Nation and had a great time with the children. Their energy and willingness to learn have been a joy to watch. During my travels, I did pushups with camp counselors and children in Long Island, New York, played softball and volleyball with children in Washington, D.C., and enjoyed plenty of good food at both camps.

As you may know, the week-long DEFY summer camps offer children much more than fresh air, exercise, and nutritious food. They provide an opportunity for children to bond with the so-called enemy in their hometowns—law

enforcement personnel. The camps also make it possible for children to interact with men and women from the U.S. Attorney's offices and the U.S. Armed Forces. Despite the year-long mentoring that participants receive during Phase II of the DEFY program, the children still find it difficult to leave the people they have bonded with during the summer camp activities. We hope that children who participate in DEFY will lead drug-free and productive lives and have an appreciation for the efforts of the men and women of law enforcement, the U.S. Armed Forces, and the U.S. Attorney's offices.

Please continue to send news about the successful programs and activities at your Weed and Seed sites. Just keep the faxes, e-mails, and phone calls coming! You can send submissions to my attention at EOWS by mail or by fax at 202-616-1159. Please feel free to call me directly at 202-616-1152 or 202-616-7317. I can also be reached via e-mail at harrisj@ojp.usdoj.gov.

John Harris III
In-Sites Editor
October 1998

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Please send all submissions, comments, or address corrections to the above address.



Look Ma! I made a new friend!

New York's DEFY Program Mentors Large Group

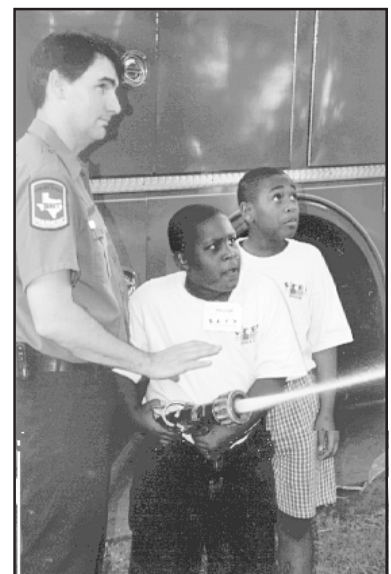
During New York's DEFY summer camp, held July 6–10, more than 90 children ages 9–12 from the Long Island neighborhoods of Amityville, Hempstead, and Roosevelt engaged in a variety of entertaining athletics and field trips. They also attended an exhibition by a U.S. Navy SEALs Unit and traveled with their counselors to the John F. Kennedy International Airport for an extensive tour of a 747 jet. “These kids will remember the week they spent here for a long time,” said Nassau County Police Officer Rob Provenzano. “No matter where you see these kids from here on in—at the PAL [Police Athletic League], the library, or on the street—they’ll remember you. What’s good about it is that they get to see us in a whole different light. With some of them, they may have had older brothers or friends who didn’t have good experiences with the police, and they tell them that we’re all bad. But by spending time with us and getting to know us, they see that we’re human, and not robots. This is the best age to get them into programs like [DEFY].”



Whoa, check out the view!

San Antonio, Texas', DEFY Program

The San Antonio DEFY summer camp held at Camp Mabry, the Texas National Guard headquarters in Austin, Texas, afforded its 27 participants from two local Weed and Seed sites the opportunity to learn about farm animals and many other farm activities. The children traveled just outside of San Antonio to the Pioneer Farm, where they participated in such activities as milking cows and feeding livestock. The intense Texas heat failed to slow down the children's fun-filled, busy itinerary, which included a trip to the local fire department, fun and educational water-related activities, and a presentation by the National Guard's Special Operations Division. Workshops were presented by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Austin Police Department Gang Suppression Unit, the U.S. Assistant State Attorney's Office, and the Boy Scouts.



A San Antonio Emergency Medical Technician mentors future firefighters.

Philadelphia's DEFY Summer Camp Is a Success

Thirty lucky children attended this year's DEFY summer camp, which was sponsored by the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Weed and Seed. Four returnees were given the status of Youth Team Leaders because of the leadership skills they had acquired during the 1997 DEFY summer camp. Participants in this year's camp hailed from Philadelphia's four Safe Haven sites—Community United Neighbors Against Drugs

(CUNAD), United Neighbors Against Drugs (UNAD), the Norris Square Neighborhood Project, and the Fairhill Community Center. In addition to numerous workshops, the children were given an opportunity to climb aboard the helicopters, tanks, and military trucks which the National Guard had on display. The 1998 DEFY summer camp was a great success thanks to all of the event's collaborative partners,

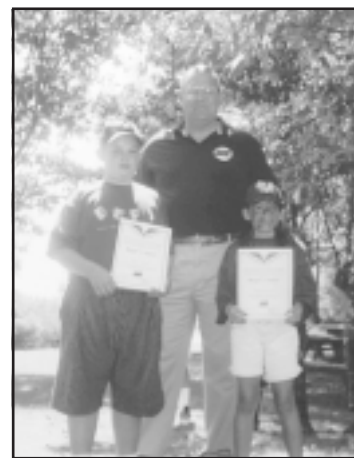
including the National Guard and AmeriCorps, which provided help in supervising the children and leading the workshops.



DEFY children experience the challenges of the Leadership Reactionary Course.



A DEFY graduate shows appreciation to an Army National Guard volunteer for a job well done.



Philadelphia DEFY children show off the fruits of their labor.



Campers and counselors gather for a group shot.

Defying the Odds

AOC Richard Sheats

DEFY Coordinator

Naval Air Station Atlanta

On July 22, 1994, I received a phone call that changed my life. My 17-year-old son and his best friend were murdered by three teenage boys on the streets of Atlanta. Like most of you, I thought I had covered all the bases with my son—peer pressure, sex, gang awareness, drugs, etc. I figured if I taught my kids right from wrong and how to be productive citizens, that my job as a parent was completed.

Prior to my son's murder, someone once challenged me to become more involved in local children's programs, and my response was "I have my own kids." But I came to realize that it *does* take a village to raise a child. As you can imagine, my son's murder left an incredible hole in my heart. I prayed to God [that He] would just call and take me home and take away my pain. But the Lord had a different mission for me. The mission was DEFY—the Drug Education for Youth program. The Naval Air Station (NAS) in Atlanta, Georgia, was one of the first three U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Weed and Seed sites to pilot the DEFY program in 1996. The first group of DEFY graduates from that site, 32 inner-city children, participated in an 8-day boot camp-style summer camp followed by a 9-month mentoring program. NAS Atlanta, DOJ, and the city of Atlanta Police Department's Weed and Seed Task Force sponsored the camp.

After the pilot program's initial success, the Executive Office for Weed and Seed offered to make the DEFY program available to all of the U.S. Attorney's offices throughout the country. In 1997, 38 new Weed and Seed sites across the Nation participated in the DEFY program. In the summer of 1997, NAS Atlanta Commanding Officer, Captain S.C. Christopher welcomed DEFY back with open arms for the second annual DEFY boot camp. On June 27, 1998, we graduated 40 more children.

Are we making a difference? I would say that we are. During the last camp, our students' grade-point averages increased by 50 percent and school incidents/suspensions decreased by 35 percent. Our kids know that there is life beyond the troubled neighborhoods in which they live. They dream of being doctors, lawyers, teachers, and even members of the Armed Services.

Nothing and no one could ever take the place of my son, but DEFY has turned my tears of pain into tears of joy. Sometimes I have to work long hours visiting schools, tutoring, searching for runaways, and just listening to children's problems. But I don't mind. If I can stop one child from doing something wrong, if I can give one child a word of encouragement, if I can touch a child's heart for one moment, then my son's death will not

have been in vain. It is time for me to retire. My last DEFY summer camp was from August 3 to 12, 1998.

I challenge each and everyone of you to get involved. Stop talking about how bad our children are and start doing something about it. The life you save just might be your child's. I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, Captain S.C. Christopher, U.S. Attorney Richard Deane, Ms. Gloria Walker, and all of the NAS Atlanta mentors who volunteered their time. You have made the difference.

My thanks also go out to the following NAS Atlanta personnel who participated in the DEFY program as mentors: AMS1 Scott Hill, YN1 Mitchell Drone, AMS1 Tyler Boyd, AMS2 Unique Hiram, AK2 Pauline Tavares, YN2 Anthony Paschal, AK2 Leon Smith, AZ Rachel Hagg, YN2 Sonya Scott, AO2 Cintronn Hill, HM2 Alan Del Rosario, RM Robert Lewis, AMS2 Sheldon Shepard, YN2 Dewayne Jones, HM2 Sarah Howard, SK2 Franklin Hayes, JO3 Ardelle Purcell, YN3 Patrick Hills, and HM3 Patricia Hart.

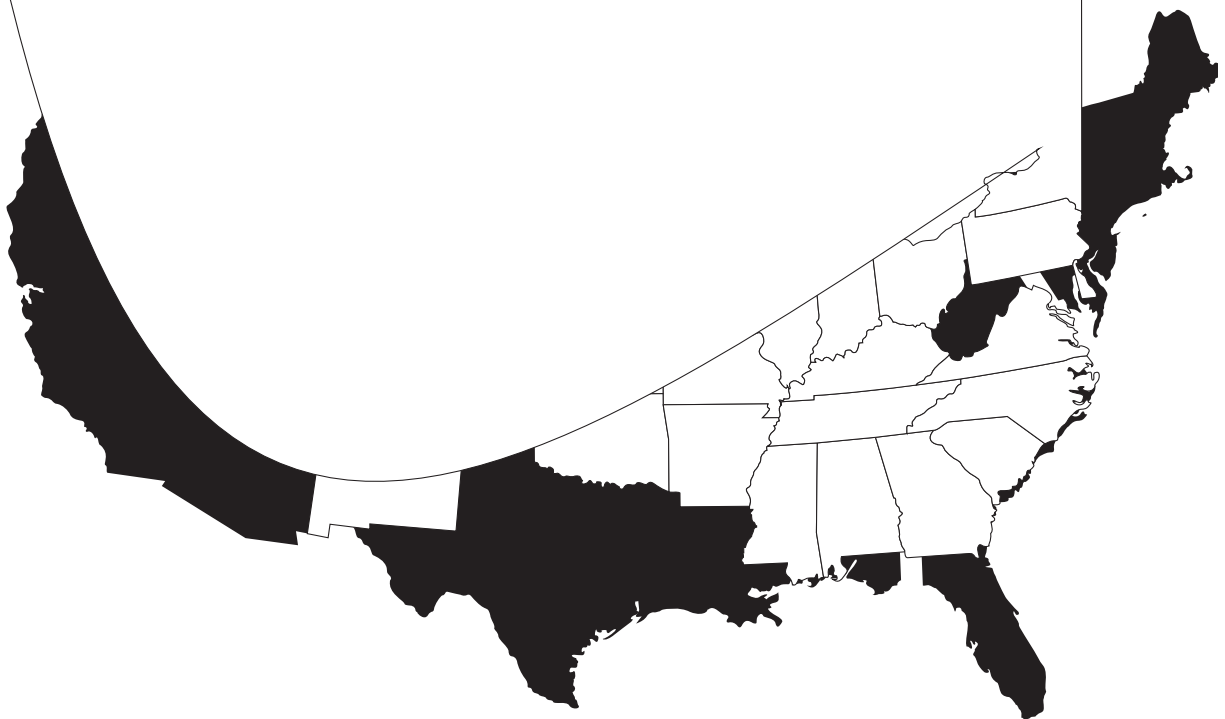
This article was originally published in *The Phoenix*, a U.S. Department of the Navy newspaper. It was modified with permission to appear in this issue of *In-Sites*.

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DEFY graduate.



Special Assistant to the Director Wanda Keyes Heard Bids Farewell

My year-long detail at EOWS is drawing to a close. It has been a wonderful experience that I will never forget. I came to EOWS from the Middle District of the Florida U.S. Attorney's office. In my position as Special Assistant to the Director, I sought to encourage the continued support, commitment, and involvement of U.S. Attorney's offices with the Weed and Seed program. Although some U.S. Attorney's offices have not embraced the concept as being consistent with the mission of their office, many have taken leadership roles by developing and implementing Weed and Seed strategies in their districts. EOWS has now expanded to 178 sites.

During my tenure at EOWS, I have traveled the country and seen the best that communities have to offer as they strive to implement ways of doing business by forging new partnerships. Operation Weed and Seed was developed to assist the residents of crime-ridden neighborhoods in creating peaceful, safe, and healthy environments for themselves. The program has had an amazing effect on the communities where it has been implemented. It's no wonder so many communities want to establish Weed and Seed sites.

Despite the difficulties involved, law enforcement and Weed and Seed communities are building partnerships to better deal with the current difficult times. I've seen more and more U.S. Attorneys embrace Weed and Seed and get more involved in their communities. I've seen the smiling faces of young people and the Weed and Seed staff mentoring them. As I leave Weed and Seed, I will never forget those smiling faces. They are the reason I became a prosecutor. So many children that Operation Weed and Seed has touched now can see positive alternatives to crime and violence.

From WRICE marches to the DEFY program, from Kid's House to MAD DADS, and every program and Safe Haven in between, the partnerships are magical and offer hope for the future. Weed and Seed is making a real difference in the communities and in the lives of everyone it touches, including prosecutors. I am pleased to have been blessed with the opportunity to be a small part of Weed and Seed. I fervently hope that the partnerships that make the Weed and Seed program so effective continue to thrive, expand, and create positive change in communities nationwide.

Wanda Keyes Heard

October 1998



Wanda Keyes Heard

Catering to the Future

Nefretiti Makenta

Across the Nation, more than 1,000 charter schools are being established as creative alternatives to traditional public schools. In September, the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, an institution sponsored by the See Forever Program based in Washington, D.C., officially opened its doors to 40 at-risk teenagers. The school expects to more than double its number of students in future years. Organized to conduct five terms per year, the program admits students on a rolling basis. Its first graduating class will receive their diplomas in August of 1999.

The school created Untouchable Taste, a student-run catering company. Students gain professional skills by working a part time while pursuing a high school diploma. They earn \$6.15 an hour, preparing food for gatherings of more than 700 people. "We wanted a program that wouldn't lie to kids and say 'you can do anything,'" but not give them skills," said David Domenici, a Washington, D.C., lawyer. The professional skills development curriculum at the school includes internships at companies throughout the city and courses in financial management and planning. Portions of the students' earnings are deposited into their individual mutual funds and savings accounts established by See Forever.

Seed money for the program was raised by U.S. Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder, Jr., and Reid Weingarten, a prominent Washington D.C., criminal

(Continued on page 8)

Middle District of Florida Provides Blueprint

Virginia H. Glaiber

Development of long-term strategies in law enforcement was the primary focus of the Law Enforcement Strategy and Planning Conference of the Middle District of Florida. The conference was hosted by U.S. Attorney Charles R. Wilson in Orlando, Florida, June 3–5. Sponsored in cooperation with the Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee (LECC), it was designed to develop a 5-year plan for enhancing coordination among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies when investigating and prosecuting individuals involved in illegal activity.

During conference proceedings, Mr. Wilson announced a coordinated and comprehensive law enforcement strategy for

prosecuting criminals and providing resources to communities to combat crime through initiatives such as Weed and Seed and the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ's) Equitable Sharing Program. For example, over \$2 million was disbursed to 20 law enforcement agencies pursuant to the Equitable Sharing Program and the DOJ. This funding represents the equitable share of proceeds forfeited in a total of nine judicial cases. Forfeited real property can also be subject to equitable sharing.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Virginia M. Covington, Chief, Asset Forfeiture Section, discussed the successes of the Quality of Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc., located in Fort Myers, Florida. The center recently received property when

its former owners forfeited the property because of their involvement in illegal drug activity. Currently, the center is being used for youth activities, including mentoring programs, academic assistance, and leadership training.

Other topics of discussion during the conference included environmental crimes, the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiative, strategies for the Organized Crime Enforcement Task Force, domestic violence, counterfeiting, health-care fraud, hate crimes, child pornography, and cybercrimes. Breakout sessions were organized by representatives from each region (Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Orlando, and Tampa) to help facilitate the development of the 5-year plan.

Catering to the Future

(Continued from page 7)

lawyer. Following their lead, David Domenici and James Foreman Jr., two Washington D.C. lawyers, have raised an impressive amount of private funds for the school to complement its Weed and Seed funding. The See Forever program is endorsed by many high-profile sponsors and has an advisory board that includes Katharine Graham, Chair of the Executive Committee for *The Washington Post*, and Alma Brown, widow of Ron Brown, the late Secretary of Commerce. With these powerful and prominent backers, See Forever's financial future looks bright.

Sixteen-year-old Samantha Crandall provides one example of the charter

school's success. "I used to cut school. I'm surprised [the teachers here] even know my name," said the bubbly Crandall while preparing food at Untouchable Taste. "Most of the time you'll find me in school, even on weekends." Designed as an intensive work-study program for a small student population, David Domenici hopes to accomplish a genuine, long-term paradigm shift in the thought and behavior patterns of the students. As Crandall said, "The past is the past. It's all about the future."

While the school's educational component and Untouchable Taste's economic opportunities were put in place to try to reduce the possibility of future

incarceration, a full-time clinical counselor follows the students' psychological health. "With the stuff these kids have been through, it's unbelievable how resilient they are," said counselor Cindy Cowan.

The students at the Maya Angelou Public Charter School must be willing to change their old ways. David Domenici noted that a number of older students had come to the school expecting merely a job-training program and were unwilling to undergo the rigorous 11-hour schedule. The See Forever program is clearly not for slackers. Mr. Domenici said that the staff have become experienced at identifying children that are best suited to it.

National Homeownership Week Kickoff Buffalo, New York

A new national program that provides affordable housing for low-income families recently came to the aid of a family residing in the Buffalo Weed and Seed area. On June 6, 1998, the first day of National Homeownership Week, a crew of more than 70 volunteers began building a new home for Buffalo resident James Singletary. "The House That Congress Built," a program sponsored by the U.S. Congress and Habitat for Humanity, combines the expertise of civic organizations, businesses, and volunteers in 435 congressional districts across the country to build homes for families that would not otherwise be able to afford a home. Among the volunteers building the Singletary home were Representative Jack Quinn (30th District, New York) and staff, volunteers from the West Seneca AmeriCorps program, and students from the University of Buffalo School of Architecture and Planning.

The program requires new homeowners to invest 500 "sweat equity hours" into the building of their homes. Homeowners in the program meet U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development guidelines that require them to be employed, have a good line of credit, and meet maximum income requirements. The new homeowner repays the cost of the home's construction at zero interest. New homes cost approximately \$50,000 and take 6 to 9 months (approximately 4,000 hours) to build. New homeowners work side by side with the builders to learn maintenance techniques that they can employ after their home is



Local volunteers pose in front of a recently built house during National Homeownership Week.

completed. John Singletary's home is scheduled for completion in fall 1998.

"It's great to see so many volunteers working together to help Mr. Singletary in realizing his dream of owning a new home," said Representative Quinn. "I look forward to the day when there are no more nails to pound and I can turn the keys over to Mr. Singletary and his family."

In 1997, Congress passed House Resolution 147, which called on members of Congress to participate in and support programs that provide affordable homes for U.S. citizens. "The House That Congress Built" is part of an effort to provide affordable housing and raise the national homeownership to 67.5% (an all-time

high) by the end of the year 2000. Thus far Habitat for Humanity has built 50 new homes for 200 U.S. citizens. "With more than one-third of American families not presently owning a home, there is clearly a great deal of work to be done," said Representative Quinn. "Habitat-Buffalo is dedicated to revitalizing our neighborhoods by building one house at a time so that another family can have an affordable home to raise a family."

The Executive Office for Weed and Seed is proud and pleased that Habitat for Humanity has chosen to be a partner in Buffalo and in many other Weed and Seed sites across the Nation.

What's Working

West Valley City Celebrates Official Recognition

West Valley City, Utah, celebrated its official recognition as a Weed and Seed site on June 29, 1998. City leaders and members of the West Valley City Police Department joined city residents for festivities held at the Redwood Recreation Center. Among those on hand for the event were West Valley City Mayor Gerald Wright, City Manager John Patterson, U.S. Attorney David J. Schwendiman, and West Valley City Police Chief Dennis Nordfelt.

A group of area children, with assistance from West Valley City police officers, planted a large pot of flowers at the Redwood Multi-Purpose Center to symbolize each of the three communities located in the Weed and Seed site. Plans for the new site include using funds to increase the police presence, develop a literacy program, build new safe havens, establish an elementary school truancy tracking program, and enforce city codes.

The celebration was covered by three Salt Lake City television stations, as well as print and radio outlets. One station aired a story about the city's recognition and the general mission of EOWS.

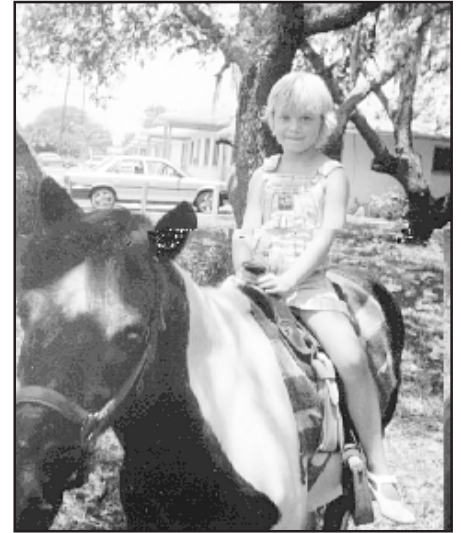
Youth Crime Declines in San Antonio, Texas

With the help of San Antonio Weed and Seed and San Antonio's "Mentors Fighting Back" (SAFB) program, the Bexar County Juvenile Probation Department reports that the rate of juvenile crime has dropped 54.1 percent from 1991 to 1997. From 1992 to 1996,

the State Governor's Office of Juvenile Justice, the San Antonio Independent School District, area military installations, and various community groups banded together to form SAFB, placing more than 500 mentors in six area middle schools. During that 5-year period, more than 1,400 students were mentored. Other factors contributing to the decline in San Antonio's juvenile crime rate included the work of the Bi-Cultural Organization for Leadership Development (BOLD); the efforts of La Salida, a leadership development camp for 5th and 6th graders hosted by Camp Bullis; and the Inner-City Games, which involved some 8,000 youths and 800 volunteers, participating in 20 different sports.

Melbourne, Florida, Police Weed Out Trouble and Seed in Fun for Children

The Melbourne City Police Department did more than meet its weeding and seeding obligations this past summer. On June



I know this is a great photo, but someone please tell this horse to giddyap!

26, 1998, local police "weeded out" a local drug ring operating in the Melbourne Weed and Seed area and many suspected dealers were arrested. The following day, Melbourne officers joined Weed and Seed-area children for "Picnic in the Park Day." For this event, several local grocers donated food, and the Melbourne Police Department provided ponies for the children to ride and put on an informational



San Antonio DEFY campers converge for a group shot.

puppet show entitled “911.” Some officers played ball with the children. The goal of the picnic was to “seed” feelings of camaraderie and common purpose among neighborhood residents.

Denver Attempts To Break Down Language Barriers

During September 1998, Marco Vasquez, Captain of the Denver Police Department’s Second District, initiated a program to break down cultural and language barriers that prevent many of the city’s Latino residents from receiving adequate services from law enforcement in their Weed and Seed neighborhoods. To improve community policing within these neighborhoods, Captain Vasquez brought together local leaders and personnel from the Colorado Regional Community Policing Institute’s Division of Criminal Justice for a series of community meetings. His goal was to create sustained partnerships among the isolated Spanish-speaking population, Second District

police officers, and an existing network of local service providers.

Because of these community meetings, 22 police officers have enrolled in intensive Spanish classes and electronic translators were purchased to enhance communication between the Second District’s Spanish-speaking residents and the Denver Police Department.

Also, several town hall events were planned to celebrate the diversity of the residents of Denver’s Second District, and a program was proposed that would team bilingual youth with police officers, adding ongoing language support beyond the officers’ completion of course work.



Sharing some burgers and a smile.



A Denver Police Officer teaches a child to ride a bike.



A group of DEFY children admire these Denver Police Officers’ mode of transportation.

Justice Pros Form Heady Think Tank

Susan Tashiro

EOWS Program Manager

“Peace is not the absence of conflict, but the presence of justice,” proclaimed Executive Office for Weed and Seed (EOWS) Director Stephen Rickman quoting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his opening remarks at the Workshop on Court-Linked Community Justice Innovations, held May 20–22 in Denver, Colorado. This quotation appropriately emphasized this pilot workshop’s primary goal—improving the quality of justice in Weed and Seed neighborhoods by creating partnerships between communities and local courts. At the workshop, teams of justice professionals from across the Nation learned about the concept of community justice and methods of planning and implementing innovations such as community courts, drug courts, and youth courts. This workshop was funded by (EOWS) and presented by the Justice Management Institute (JMI), a nonprofit organization that

sponsors educational and training programs, conducts research, and provides technical assistance for courts and justice system institutions and agencies.

Specific goals for the 2-day workshop included building links between EOWS and local courts interested in justice innovations; informing policymakers and practitioners about the range of community justice innovations available to their communities; and providing opportunities for justice professionals to work together, discuss issues, and develop action plans.

The 12 participating jurisdictions were asked to organize teams that included at least one of the following: a chief judge; a court administrator; a district attorney/city prosecutor; a probation representative; a Weed and Seed coordinator; and an individual with expertise in planning court-linked community justice innovations.

Team discussion sessions helped the members of each jurisdiction address

issues of planning court-linked community justice innovations in the context of their communities. Each team was assigned a facilitator who helped them undertake a series of exercises that involved setting initial goals; identifying obstacles and potential resources; and developing an action plan that included goals, tasks, target dates, and individual responsibilities.

The success of this pilot workshop and inquiries from other jurisdictions interested in attending future workshops indicate general justice professional enthusiasm for the core concept of strengthening linkages between courts and the communities they serve. By forging such linkages, a crucial need of our justice system is being addressed—increasing the quality of justice for the people and the neighborhoods affected daily by crime.

For more information on workshops and technical assistance offered by EOWS and JMI, please contact EOWS at 202-616-1152.

Carver Terrace Weed and Seed Strives for Homeownership

Nefretiti Makenta

When members of the Carver Terrace Tenant Association first learned that a real estate developer was poised to buy 406 apartment units at the property where they raise their children and grandchildren, they organized and exercised their “first right of refusal.” The tenants wanted to purchase the property but lacked the resources.

The optimistic tenant association decided to unite with the Telesis Corporation, a D.C.-based real estate development company, to form the Carver Terrace Limited Liability Corporation, a for-profit umbrella company. The newly formed corporation was loaned \$3.5 million by the Fannie Mae Corporation and the Franklin National

Bank and purchased a large portion of Carver Terrace’s 1,818 units. Most of the loan and as much as \$20 million in renovation costs will be paid back through a tax-exempt construction loan and its low-income tax credits. The corporation expects to apply for additional subsidies from the District’s Department of Housing and Community Development.

(Continued on page 14)

Milwaukee's Busy Summer

Milwaukee Weed and Seed was very active during the summer months this year. Summer Stars, a program for children ages 13 to 17, and Summer Nights, a program for children ages 12 and under, were open throughout the summer break. Summer Stars was open from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Summer Nights was open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The children enjoyed athletic activities such as aerobics, baseball, basketball, swimming, and volleyball; enrichment classes in subjects like computer literacy, conflict resolution, peer mediation, and personal development; field trips; dances; and college and employment information workshops. Up to 600 children participated in these events daily, as shuttle bus service was provided both to and from their homes. Both programs were sponsored by the Milwaukee Public Schools Division of Community Recreation in partnership with Milwaukee Weed and Seed.

From middle to late August, several 1-day back-to-school programs involved Milwaukee's children in fun, positive, and mind-enriching activities. School playgrounds were transformed into stages for dance and talent contests, inspirational speakers, and disc jockeys. Back-to-school basketball tournaments were held for full teams and 3-on-3 teams. Each program featured food and entertainment, including clowns, face painting, roller skating and games, and a visit from the Milwaukee Fire Department's fire engines. All the children were given free school supplies to use during the coming school year.



Kings of the Court: Milwaukee Weed and Seed 3-on-3 basketball champs bask in their moment of glory.



Milwaukee Police Officers take time to pose for a photo during the Milwaukee Weed and Seed Job Fair.

Other News From Milwaukee

- The Milwaukee Police Department contributed to the safety of the city's South Side Weed and Seed neighborhoods on June 23, 1998, when 200 State and Federal officers apprehended 33 members of the Latin Kings, a local gang, on drug trafficking, racketeering, and firearms charges.
- The Milwaukee Weed and Seed Job Fair, held on May 13, 1998, attracted over 300 Weed and Seed neighborhood residents. Residents filled out job applications and were interviewed by prospective employers on the spot; 38 people were immediately hired.
- Weed and Seed Manager Sue Kenealy received a citation from Milwaukee Police Department Sergeant John T. Pedersen for Weed and Seed's involvement in 15 public programs, including community cleanups, educational classes for city residents, and the May 13 Job Fair.
- Sergeant Robert Wurtz accepted the Law Enforcement Program of the Year award from Wisconsin Attorney General James Doyle on behalf of the Milwaukee Police Department. The award was presented to the department for helping to reclaim the Norris Playground area from drug dealers and transients. Milwaukee Weed and Seed was also instrumental in helping to rid the playground of illegal activity.

Racine, Wisconsin, Police Chief Honored

Racine Police Chief Richard V. Polzin was honored recently as Law Enforcement Executive-of-the-Year by Wisconsin Attorney General James Doyle. Chief Polzin was integral to Racine Weed and Seed's effort to reduce crime and provide positive programs for the community. He helped implement a community policing program, which established police substations in troubled neighborhoods. The substations provide gang diversion counseling, computer skills training, and nutritional lunch programs.

Carver Terrace Weed and Seed Strives for Homeownership

(Continued from page 12)

Forming this partnership and obtaining financial support were not easy. The community in Carver Terrace is a collection of largely vacant, short, brick buildings—many with broken windows—and appears beyond repair and unworthy of investment, according to Mark Phillips, Executive Director of the recently established Community Development Corporation (CDC).

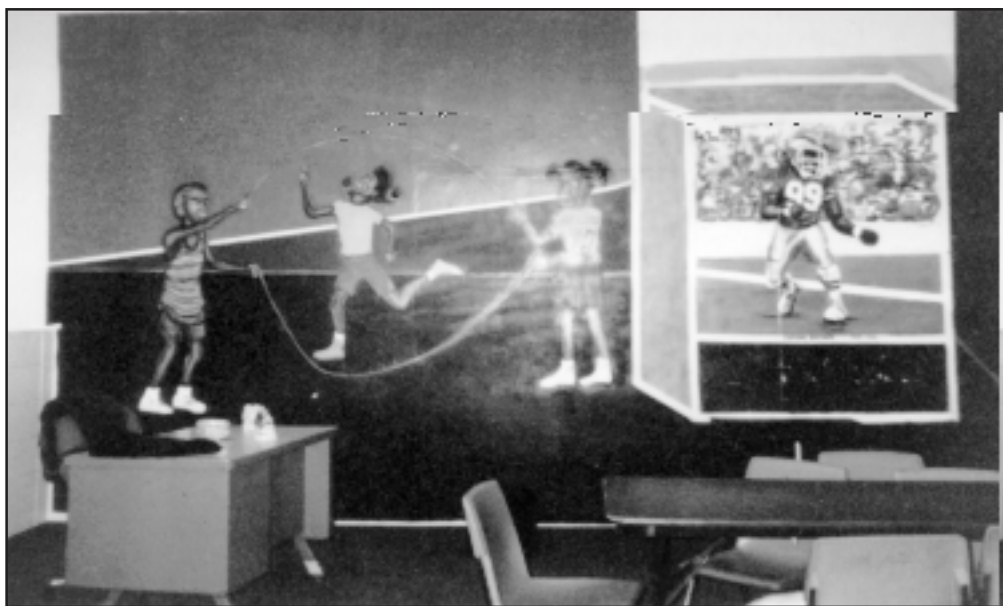
“Investors thought that it would be pretty stupid to pump \$23 million into two blocks, while the rest of the property was dilapidated. We had to show them that this is just the beginning,” said Phillips. “If it wasn’t for the social programs and the leadership we have in this community, none of this would have happened.”

According to Jack Robertson, the Telesis Corporation’s Director of Housing, the tenant association’s enthusiasm secured the partnership. “The resident organization has a much more solid foundation than the housing itself,” said Robertson. Support of the area’s informally organized CDC, which includes representatives from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the District of Columbia Housing Authority also helped to secure the deal.

The renovation plan is only the first phase of the Carver Terrace Limited Liability Corporation’s property acquisition goals. The corporation is currently negotiating the purchase of 200 more units

from a large real estate company and various other landlords. According to a spokesperson, the Telesis Corporation intends to remain in partnership with the Carver Terrace Tenant Association for the long haul. The initial development phase will be completed by the year 2001. By then, one-quarter of Carver Terrace will have new facades and landscape designs, existing apartments will be enlarged, and several 4-bedroom units will be added to the present collection of 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. The Carver Terrace Tenant Association plans to use its profits to construct a meeting room and develop more social programs for this Weed and Seed community.

Coming Soon! The 1999 Weed and Seed Poster Contest



Mural on display at the Wilmington, Delaware, Safe Haven.

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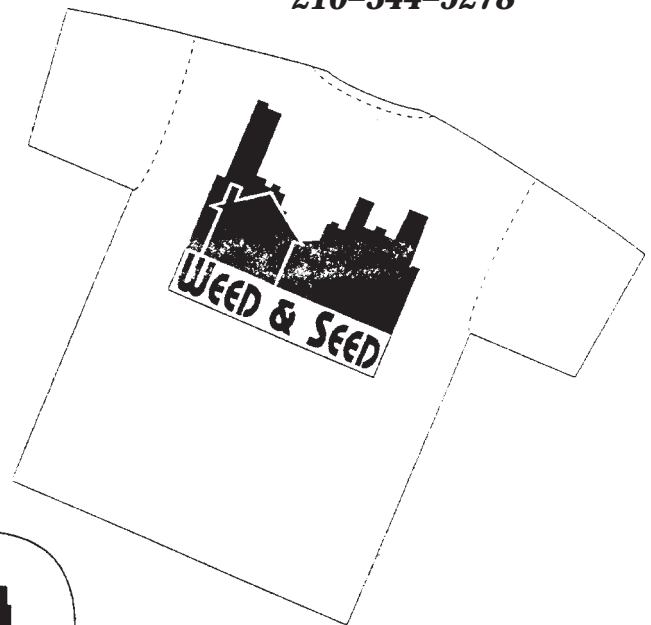
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Calendar of Events

November

13–17 The Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) will host two separate events in Tampa, Florida. On November 13 and 14, CUED will present a business retention and expansion training course. From November 15 to 17, CUED will host a conference entitled “Expansions and Relocations: Corporate Strategies and Community Responses.” For more information, call 202–223–4735.

December

7–8 The Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) will present a Work Development Conference at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana. The conference will feature concurrent sessions divided into three tracks: Meeting Today’s Workforce Needs, Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce, and Welfare-To-Work. Scholarships to attend the conference are available for Indiana-based registrants. For more information, call Lisa Itamura at (202) 223–4735.

January

20–26 CUED will conduct two events in Tempe, Arizona—a January 20–23 conference entitled “If You Build It, Will They Come?” and an economic development planning training course from January 25–26. For more information, call 202–223–4735.



February

14–18 The Weed and Seed Northwest Regional Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon. Weed and Seed sites should look for registration materials between December 1998 and January 1999. For more information, call 301–519–5516.

Heads Up!

- ***The Weed and Seed National Conference will be held during summer 1999 in Houston, Texas. For information, call 202–514–0709.***
- ***The Weed and Seed Southeast Regional Conference will be held in Mobile, Alabama, during spring 1999. For more information, call 301–519–5516.***

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Justice Programs

Executive Office for Weed and Seed

Washington, DC 20531

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